

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: ARIYASU=1A

In re Application of: ) Conf. No.: 5549  
Toshio ARIYASU et. al. ) Art Unit: 1644 #21  
Appln. No.: 09/617,545 ) Examiner:  
Date Filed or 102(e) date: )  
July 14, 2000 ) Washington, D.C.  
For: HEDGEHOG PROTEIN ) March 24, 2004

**REQUEST FOR STATUS**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

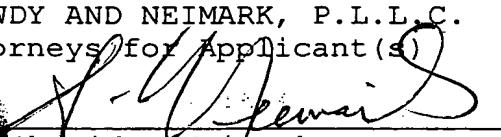
In accordance with the requirements of the Patent and Trademark Office, The applicants hereby make inquiry as to the status of the above-identified application.

As 37 CFR 1.2 states that the action of the PTO "will be based exclusively on the written record", applicant needs and therefore **requests a written reply.**

Respectfully submitted,

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